

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the foregoing amendments be made prior to examination of the present application.

In the specification, paragraphs have been amended on pages 1-10.

Claims 1-16 are currently being amended.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-16 (16 claims) are now pending in this application.

The present application is a National Phase Application in the United States of International Application PCT/EP2004/001260 filed on March 4, 2004, and claims priority back to German Application No. DE10312140.4, filed March 19, 2003.

Applicants have provided a substitute specification which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference which adds paragraph numbers, heading titles and corrects grammar and punctuations all to conform with USPTO practice. Applicants state that no new matter has been added to the substitute specification. For the preliminary amendment, Applicants submit that the specification should be amended to include a cross reference to the related applications of the PCT and the German application cited above.

Applicants have also amended the abstract as indicated in the attached document. The abstract conforms to the USPTO word count requirement. Applicants have amended claims 1-16 to correct style, terminology and comply with multiple dependent claim requirements. Support for the substitute amendments to the claims and the new claims are in the specification and drawings as originally filed. The drawings for this application are the same as the drawings attached to the PCT application as referenced above.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance.
Favorable consideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date _____

By James A. Wilke

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 26371
Telephone: (414) 297-5776
Facsimile: (414) 297-4900

James A. Wilke
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 34,279